

TW

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/050,460	VANCURA, OLAF	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Julie K. Brockett	3713	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--
 All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment dated 9-20-05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 21-39.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert Dorr on November 21, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please replace the last paragraph on page 8 of the specification that continues over to page 9 with the following paragraph.

In **FIG. 2**, the player is presented an alternative spin outcome. With this result, the player has qualified for the Player Selectable Wild feature because a Trigger symbol has appeared on the 5th reel. In practice, at this point, the player would be alerted (**FIG. 7**, step 705) via multi-media presentation, showing that he/she has qualified for the player wild feature, and instructions would be given. Here, in a first preferred embodiment, the Trigger symbol automatically becomes wild (as shown in step 709 (dotted lines) in FIG. 7) and the player is prompted to touch any of the other 14 remaining non-trigger symbols, whose position will then also become wild. It can be seen, after consultation with the pay table, that the optimal symbol to touch (and convert to wild) is the Bell at position 3B. The resultant payoff is then a total of 50 credits for pay line 1. The player could have touched Lime at position 2A in

FIG. 2 and converted that to wild there would be three Bells at 1A, 2A, and 3B and that would pay only 10 so the prudent player would not select that.

Likewise the player could have selected Plum at location 2C and lined up the four Limes winning 15 (remember that Logo is also wild). That also would have been a less fortunate choice. The player, depending on the initiating means, may be given two or more choices among the symbols, with all such choices serving to make the corresponding positions wild.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on September 20, 2005 has been entered.

Drawings

The drawings were received on September 20, 2005. These drawings are approved.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 21-39 are allowed over the prior art of record. They have been renumbered as claims 1-19.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art of record are Cannon, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0125102 A1, Singer, U.S. Patent No. 6,604,740 B1 and Bennett et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,648,758 B2. In Cannon, a player may select a symbol to be wild after a partial display of the gaming outcome on the matrix. However, Applicant's invention allows for the selection of the wild symbol after full disclosure of the game outcome, which is contrary to the invention of Cannon. In Singer a player selects a symbol to be a wild symbol in a next spin of the gaming machine. For example, the player selects the symbol and then the reels spin and the symbol acts as a wild in the outcome. This is contrary to Applicant's invention in which the reels are spun, and stopped thereby displaying an outcome. After the outcome is displayed, the player then gets to select a symbol to be considered "wild". By Applicant allowing the player to select the symbol after the matrix displays the game outcome, the player can strategize as to which symbol he/she wants to make "wild". In Singer, since the player selects the symbol before display of the outcome, there is no strategy and the game results including the display of a wild symbol are completely random. The other reference, Bennett does allow a player to select a symbol to be "wild" after a game matrix displays a triggering event. However, the symbol that the player is selecting as "wild" is for a future spin of the reels not for the

previously determined outcome displayed, as in Applicant's invention.

Consequently, while it is well known for a player to select a wild symbol, it is not known or obvious for a player to select a wild symbol in a matrix display after the results of the spin have been determined. None of the prior art discloses or suggests, displaying a matrix of symbols with a game outcome and then allowing the player to touch one of the symbols making it wild so that more winning combinations can be determined in the same displayed matrix of symbols.

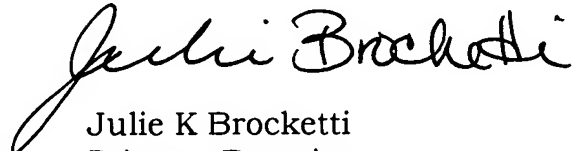
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Julie K. Brockett whose telephone number is 571-272-4432. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan Thai can be reached on 571-272-7147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Julie K Brockett
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3713